



TAP Pharmaceuticals Inc.

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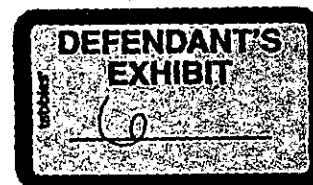
FROM: Don Patton

SUBJECT: December AUA Today Editorial on Free Goods Fraud

Attached is an editorial discussing the governments' on-going program to eliminate billing for "free" product. Obviously this is something we need to be continuously sensitive to with our Patient Start Program.

DP:mjw

TAP 5085654



"OPERATION GOLDPILL" TARGETS HEALTH CARE FRAUD

Richard J. Hannigan
Baltimore, MD

The most widespread criminal fraud investigation ever conducted of health care providers has led to arrests and indictments. More than 100 health care professionals have been implicated for misuse of free pharmaceutical samples and illegal diversion, distribution and repackaging of medications.

The U.S. Department of Justice and the FBI carried out the investigation, called Operation Goldpill. The probe revealed intentional false billing of Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance companies for pharmaceuticals which health care professionals had received free. Tens of millions of dollars worth of homes, financial accounts and property were seized as a result of the investigation.

Operation Goldpill, AUA TODAY has learned, is only the first of many investigations of health care fraud planned by the FBI and the Justice Department. FBI Director William Sessions said Operation Goldpill is the first phase of Bureau activity intended to produce "ongoing evidence" against those who fraudulently siphon

money from the Nation's health care system.

The American Medical Association, as reported in the Oct. 12 issue of *American Medical News*, is assisting the FBI with the investigations. The AMA is helping to uncover fraud and has offered the assistance of members of its specialty societies and state medical associations. These medical societies and other organizations can serve as "soldiers in the war against clinically fraudulent activities."

In the past two years, more than 150 FBI agents have been assigned to health fraud investigations. Most of those arrested so far have been pharmacists who allegedly sold drugs to Medicare patients, bought them back at a greatly reduced price, and resold them to other patients at full price.

Urologists often receive free drugs which are specifically intended for trial use with new patients. These pharmaceuticals, some of which are relatively expensive when purchased, can intentionally or unintentionally be billed to Medicaid, Medicare or other third-party payers.

Physicians must be aware of the potential for fraud or mistake over inventories of these pharmaceuticals. Physicians must avoid mistakenly submitting payment requests for products received free from drug manufacturers.

WIDE CALIBER URETHRAL DILATATION

(Continued from page 1)

erative urethral pressure profiles are shown in the graphs.

Among the 10 patients in urinary retention preoperatively

9.3 ml per second peak flow preoperatively to 20 ml per second peak flow postoperatively. For patients in whom cystometrography showed a large capacity, sensory motor impaired bladder, 80% improved postoperatively, whereas with a normal appearing cystometrogram only 50% of the patients improved postopera-

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Brett C.
New



Brett C. Mollinger, M.D.

Institute in 1987, this method has been performed on eight million Sichuan Province was de-sterilization now

In June 1988, Chinese physicians from Egypt, Thailand, observed the technique in Vietnam. They recommended that Voluntary Sterilization (AVSC) spon- method of voluntary sterilization in China. The number was subsequently reported to the United States. As of February 1988, there were 10 AVSC-sponsored no-scalpel vas-

A team of vasectomists the technique

Specialty de-